

Weston 3 Dec 60

Dear Bro

I received your letter by Ben, and was pleased to hear from you. you say there is a good deal of excitement with you. there is some with us though I do not think it is as great with us as it is with you. from what I can learn there is a change going on with some of the people with us, the attachment to the union I believe is growing weaker every day. I must confess my attachment has been weakened. I do not feel willing to live under a government in which I cannot have equal rights. 13 out of the 15 northern

States have nullified the federal laws, and the general government has permitted it to pass unnoticed now the President threatens if south carolina should nullify the laws he will force her to submit but will let her secede if she wants.

I hope if there is any action on the part of the south to go out that they will be prudent and take no higher stand than they intend to stand up to. I believe there ought to be a convention of all the states and let there be a final settlement of the difficulties at once and forever. I fear if the report be true about Montgomery invasion of Miss =souri & Kellam, its citizens is true

it will be the beginning of a revolution, it is said he declares it is his intention to persist in his course until he shall free the state. I hope they may catch him soon and give him his deserts. we are all up though some of us have colds. Tho' Edwards children have been quite sick though they are better, ~~Sam~~ has been poisoned and is suffering considerably but is better it was from smoke from some poison wood. I would be greatly pleased if you can come up and see us there is no chance of my leaving home this winter. as I am quite busy, I have not yet finished my corn I never saw as much damaged

and my crop is a very short
one. we have gotten the mud
machine in successful operation
I am told it performs finely, I
have not seen it since it has been
put to work. Mr Rice is work-
ing it now. I want to move it
over & commence working it after
Christmas. a man over in Mr
Rices neighborhood tried the mud
this year on a very poor piece
of land & I learn the result was
far beyond any thing that I had
expected. he told me the land
on which he put the mud would
not bring corn at all, this year
he gathered as heavy a crop from
it as he did from his best cor-
pened land two ears from many
of the stalk & they lay ones in basket
yr affectionate Bro
W. W. Brown

**Broun, William to Roswell Bascom Broun [inferred],
Charlottesville, VA, December 3, 1860.**

FileName: ua24-19_cw1_18601203 Handwritten letter from William Broun to his brother Roswell Bascom Broun [inferred]. December 3, 1860. References succession. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia, United States. 2 pages. **Subjects:** University of Virginia; Personal correspondence; American Civil War (1861-1865); College Students; Virginia--Northumberland County; Agriculture; State succession; Montgomery, James, 1814-1871;

Weston 3 Dec 60 Dear Bro

I received your letter by Ben, and was pleased to hear from you. You say there is a good deal of excitement with you. There is some with us though I do not think it is as great with us as it is with you from what I can learn there is a change growing on with some of the people with us. The attachment to the Union is growing weaker every day. I must confess my attachment has been weakened. I do not feel willing to live under a government in which I cannot have equal rights. 13 out of the 15 Northern...

[pg.01]

...states have nullified the federal laws, and the general government has permitted it to pay unnoticed now the President threatens if South Carolina should nullify the laws he will force her to submit but will let her secede if she wants.

I hope if there is an action on that part of the South to go out that they will be prudent and take no higher stand than they intend to stand up to. I believe they ought to be a convention of all the states and let them be a final settlement of the difficulties at once and forever. I fear if the report be true about Montgomery invasion of Missouri & Kansas [?] its citizens is true...

[pg.02]

...it will be the beginning of a revolution, it is said he declares it is his intention to persist in his course until he shall free the state. I hope they may catch him soon and give him his deserts. We are all up though some of us have colds. Ms. Edwards children have been quite sick though they are better. One has been poisoned and is suffering considerably but is better - it was from smoke from some poison wood. I would be greatly pleased if you can come up and see us there is no chance of my leaving home this winter. As I am quite busy, I have not yet finished my corn. I never saw as much damaged...

[pg.03]

...and my crop is a very short one. We have gotten the mud machine [3] in successful operation. I am told it performs finely. I have not seen it since it has been put to work. Mr. Rice is working it now. I want to move it over and commence working it after Christmas. A man over in Mr. Rice's neighborhood tried the mud this year on a very poor piece of land and I learned the result was far beyond anything that I had expected. He told me the land on which he put the mud would not bring corn at all, this year he gather as heavy a crop from it as he did from his best cow panned land. Two ears from many of the stalk & the large ones in [hash?].

Your affectionate Bro, W.W. Broun.

Notes:

1. Montgomery Invasion? Phillips, Christopher. "Montgomery, James" Civil War on the Western Border: The Missouri-Kansas Conflict, 1854-1865. The Kansas City Public Library. Accessed Friday, April 10, 2020 - 12:24 at <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/montgomery-james>

In December 1859, shortly after John Brown's hanging for his raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, Montgomery unsuccessfully attempted to rescue two of Brown's jailed accomplices. Returning to Kansas, Montgomery publicly vowed to drive all proslavery residents from Kansas and made good on his pledge to take his war of liberation into Missouri. In response, in November 1860, Missouri's Governor Robert M. Stewart sent a "Southwest Expedition" of some 600 state militiamen, largely from St. Louis, to the border counties to suppress Montgomery's jayhawking raids. Simultaneously, federal troops led by Captain Nathaniel Lyon again arrived to attempt to capture Montgomery and Jennison. Again, they failed.

2. This letter was presumably written to Roswell Bascom Broun (1850-1936), William's only surviving brother who would have been 10 years old when this letter written. [see [broun-william_ancestry.pdf](#)]
3. Mud Machine - probably refers to agricultural technique called Marling, where marsh mud and marl are used as fertilizing techniques. See: Taylor, Rosser H. "FERTILIZERS AND FARMING IN THE SOUTHEAST, 1840-1950: PART I: 1840-1900." The North Carolina Historical Review 30, no. 3 (1953): 305-28. Accessed November 24, 2020. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23516239>.